

Applicant(s): Munnelly et al.

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PLATES

Art Unit: Not yet assigned

Examiner: Not yet assigned

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In accordance with applicants' duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, we are enclosing form PTO-1449 listing information that may be material to the patentability of this application.

We are also enclosing a copy of each of the following citations that are listed in form PTO-1449: U.S. Patent Nos. 4,997,745; 5,368,990; 5,491,046; 5,496,903; 5,545,676; 5,756,258; 5,763,134; 6,153,356; the following PCT publication: WO 99/46310; the following German publication: DE 196 48 313 A1; the following European Patent Nos: 0 131 824 A2;0 522 175 B1; 0 611 997 A1; 0 672 544 A1; 0 672 954 A2; 0 819 985 A1; and the following Japanese Patents with English abstracts: 09034110 A; 11038633 A; and 2001159816 A.

It is applicants' belief that none of the above citations describe that which is claimed in the present invention.

It should be understood that attention has been called to the citations that have been deemed to be pertinent to the claimed present invention. In concluding what was pertinent, the criteria employed was considered most appropriate in light of the invention shown in the present application. However, the Examiner or others may deem some other criteria to be just as appropriate or more appropriate. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully urged to review the listed citations and to make the usual careful independent search for other prior art that may be pertinent.

Since this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date, no petition or fee is required.

Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and that this application be passed to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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